

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/524,896

Applicant(s)

ISHIBASHI ET AL.

Examiner

Linh T. Nguyen

Art Unit

2627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/13/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

WAYNE YOUNG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-11 are allowed.

In regards to claims 1 and 11, none of the references of record alone or combination disclose or suggest an optical disc drive and method comprising: a laser light source for emitting a laser beam of which the intensity is changeable with the amount of drive current supplied thereto; a first photodetector, which receives a portion of the laser beam that has been emitted from the laser light source and then reflected from an optical disc, thereby generating a readout signal; a second photodetector, which receives another portion of the laser beam that has been emitted from the laser light source, generates an electric signal of which the level represents the power of the laser beam received, and outputs the electric signal as a light quantity detection signal; and a feedback control loop, which compares the level of the light quantity detection signal with a predetermined target value and controls the amount of the drive current so that the level of the light quantity detection signal approaches the target value, wherein in reading data from the optical disc, the target value is changed so as to compensate for a variation of the sensitivity of the second photodetector, thereby **controlling the power of the laser beam emitted from the laser light source, said variation of the sensitivity of the second photodetector being detected when a write power optimization is conducted.**

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Yamamoto discloses an optical pickup device that controls the sensitivity of the monitoring photodetection with respect to the light sources in response to the output of the photoreceiver.

Masakado et al discloses an optical pickup device that adjust the laser beam source in response to the intensity light received form the light-receiving element.

Yoshikawa discloses an optical recording/reproducing apparatus that detects the tracking and focus error signals, which compensates the detecting sensitivity the photo-detector.

Zucker discloses an apparatus for regulating the laser diodes by the sensitivity of the phototdetector signals.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see page 8 lines 12-21, filed 9/13/06, with respect to claims 1-11 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1-11 has been withdrawn.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Linh T. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-5513. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5:00pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, A. Wellington can be reached on 571-272-4483. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

LN
November 17, 2006



WAYNE YOUNG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER